

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1904.

Testimonial to New Chief.

The members of Active Hose Company, No. 2, celebrated the nineteenth anniversary of the organization of that company on Thursday evening. At the conclusion of the business meeting of the company, the members and invited guests, among the latter Councilmen Charles W. Chabot and Jesse C. Green went to Johnson's Hotel and enjoyed a banquet. Chief Engineer James Y. Nicoli, who is a member of Active Hose Company was present, and his colleagues in the company manifested their appreciation of his promotion to the chiefship by presenting him a handsome nickel-plated lantern, a badge and a fireman's coat. President John G. Weden made the presentation speech. Chief Nicoli fittingly responded.

Remarks appropriate to the occasion were made by Councilmen Green and Chabot, and John Schwab of Phoenix Hose Company. Vocal music was furnished by several members of the company.

Borough Park Project.

At a recent meeting of the Glen Ridge Borough Council, Mayor Brewer reported that more land for the borough park project had been acquired by condemnation proceedings. The park committee, Mayor Brewer said, had funds enough to get through with the work undertaken. "There remains," he said, "but two pieces of property to be secured for our park, one of which is owned by the railroad. We all have reason to congratulate ourselves on the near completion of this park. It is rarely that a matter of this magnitude is carried through inside the appropriation. I had an interview with Mr. McGowan, and he thinks he has made provision for the construction of the bridge connecting Woodland avenue and Bloomfield avenue by the Board of Freeholders within this year. The most we had expected was that it would be begun this year."

A Complicated Case.

Antonio Kowatski, a Pole, was arrested Wednesday, charged with non-support by Rojano Boske. The latter alleges that she was married to Kowatski in February, 1903, and that he has refused to live with her. According to the records of the late Recorder Post, he performed the ceremony, and had failed to file a certificate with the Town Clerk. At the time of the marriage Kowatski was a prisoner in the Police Court, charged with the theft of some furniture from the woman. Kowatski was held in \$200 bail pending a hearing on the charge of non-support. He will have an examination next Thursday.

Resented Annoyance.

James Grant was arrested by the police Wednesday night on a charge of assault preferred by John Gussner, a plumbers' helper, who works for Thomas F. Cogan, next to Grant's ice cream establishment at the Centre. Gussner, it is claimed, annoyed Grant by boring holes through a partition and abusing him.

Grant became enraged and ran at Gussner and struck him over the head with an iron bar, cutting him severely. Grant was arrested and gave bail before Recorder George W. Cadmus to await the action of the Grand Jury. Joseph Dodd is his bondsman.

Wedding and Festival.

An ice cream and strawberry festival will be held in the Park M. E. Church on Thursday evening, June 9, under the auspices of the women of the church, on which occasion the "Tom Thumb Wedding," by the Junior Epworth League will be repeated. After the wedding an entertainment will be given in the chapel, during which time ice cream, cake, strawberries and short cake will be served at nominal prices. Come and enjoy a social evening with us. Admission ten cents. Doors open at 7.15. Wedding at eight.

It is claimed that upwards of one thousand people were present at the base-ball game on the Arlington avenue grounds on Monday afternoon, but the financial receipts amounted to only \$43, or less than a nickel per capita. The indications are that base-ball is more of a howling success than a financial success in Watessing.

A Universal Tax Failure.

In all the States of the Union there has of late years been an increasing difficulty in assessing and collecting personal taxes, even in the rural sections, where personal property is, as a rule, not intangible. In agriculture the chief value is generally in stock, crops and implements rather than in land, and accordingly we find in the rural centres of New Jersey a much larger percentage of personal property assessed than in the cities, where personal property consists of securities, jewelry and money.

Cumberland county is agricultural. Its last assessments show \$14,618,958 of realty and \$4,729,427 of personalty. Camden is urban and suburban. Its last assessment was \$42,947,582 of realty and only \$1,396,473 of personalty. Bergen county is mostly suburban. Its realty is \$41,394,253 and its personalty \$3,646,637. Sussex is agricultural. Its realty is \$9,244,384 and its personalty \$5,028,030. In Hunterdon, an agricultural county, the personalty is about 50 per cent. of the realty. In Camden it is not 10 per cent. of the realty. But the returns of the rural valuation each year show a decreasing personal assessment.

In New York personal property constantly grows less in proportion to the real estate. Since 1870 real estate in five counties has doubled, and personal property has been decreased 20 per cent. In 1870 personal property paid 29 per cent. of the taxes in the city of New York. In 1895 it was 19 per cent. of the whole valuation, and it is now below that figure. In Massachusetts the assessed personalty is between 20 and 22 per cent. of the whole, but in some small towns it is below 5 per cent., while in others it exceeds the value of the real estate.

In Ohio the law compels the tax payer to make a detailed statement under oath, and the law also allows 30 per cent. to informants who expose false statements. The result is that in the four principal counties which have large cities the percentage of personal is about 22, while in the other counties it is about 32. There is also a strict law in Illinois, but a report of the State Auditor shows 13½ per cent. for Cook county (Chicago), and 17½ per cent. in the rest of the State.

In Pennsylvania the law differs from that of other States. Personal property is either wholly exempt from tax or is taxed nominally. In Philadelphia and some other counties there is virtually home rule in taxation. The idea of the Pennsylvania law is that capital, business and industry alone give value to city real estate; that with these the real estate can be made to produce revenue and to increase in value; without them comes depreciation in value and loss of employment for large classes of people. A personal tax is a penalty on the business interests of a city, and has an unfavorable influence on its growth and prosperity.

Every State tax commission in the country has deprecated the operation of a personal property tax. A New York commission recommended its entire abolishment. A Massachusetts commission said: "The taxation of personal property in the form of securities and investments is a failure. It is grossly unequal in its effects. Everywhere, without exception, the testimony is that this part of the system of the general property tax is unequal, unsuccessful, often demoralizing to tax officials, and always irritating to taxpayers."

It will be seen that the failure of the tax on personalty is general in all the States, and even in those having drastic laws, and is not peculiar to New Jersey. Remedies have been tried and proved abortive. It would appear to be a necessary step for the various States to co-operate in the appointment of a commission representing all the States to compare experiences and make suggestions for the benefit of the different State Legislatures.—Newark Advertiser.

Dreamland.

Dreamland, Coney Island, is an established success and is the only amusement place on the Atlantic Coast that affords entertainment of the same class as that of the largest expositions. It has been justly called "The World's Fair of Amusement Resorts," for the reason that all the buildings on the grounds of Dreamland are massive and are designed much on the same lines as those that have made notable the largest expositions of the world.

Carpet Cleaning.

Now is the time to clean carpets. If you want your carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid, send word to D. Douglass No. 9 Park street, Montclair. Mr. Douglass has had years of experience in carpet cleaning, and has a large patronage in this town, Glen Ridge and Montclair. Those intending to move can have their carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid on short notice. The work will be well and promptly done.—Advt.

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A SKULL FOR "HAMLET."

The Odd Manner in Which the Elder Booth Acquired One.

The elder Booth acquired a skull for use in "Hamlet" in an odd manner, according to a story in Scene and Heard. The tragedian, somewhat in his cups, was traveling near Louisville when he took a horse from a field and rode off with it. Horse stealing at that time was a capital offense in Kentucky, and the greatest horse thief was a man named Fontaine. Booth was soon overtaken and when asked where he got the animal said:

"I captured him in a field back here."

"Indeed!" said one of the farmers. "And what might your name be?"

"My name is Fontaine," said Booth, without a smile.

"Fontaine!" ejaculated both men simultaneously. "Then you are the very man we want. Come back to town with us."

"Certainly," said Booth in the most good natured manner, and, wheeling his horse, he rode back to Louisville with his captors.

The city jail was then in charge of a Colonel Thomas, who knew Booth well. "We have brought you Fontaine, the horse thief, and claim the reward," said the farmers proudly, addressing the jailer.

"Where is he?" they were asked. Booth was produced. "Why, what does this mean, Mr. Booth?" asked Thomas.

"I haven't the slightest idea," said the great tragedian, with the utmost simplicity. "I met these two men with this horse, and they insisted upon giving it to me. I guess they stole it. I think one of them is Fontaine."

The rustics were about to be locked up when by the most singular coincidence a man rushed to the prison door on horseback and shouted out the information that the real Fontaine had been taken into custody. Booth made Fontaine's acquaintance in jail, and the horse thief, who was executed later, left by will his skull to the actor.

THE COUGAR'S FIGHTING.

How a Bull Elk Won a Battle by a Solar Plexus Blow.

The cougar does not leap upon its big game nor drop upon it out of treetops, but sneaks close or lies in wait upon the level and goes from cover in a straight rush like the tiger or the hunting leopard. It endeavors to seize upon the lower throat or shoulder with its teeth and to twist the quarry's head against this "purchase" in its powerful forearms until the neck is broken. Falling in its attempt, yet making good its catch hold, the cougar will—to put it modernly—go in and finish in any old style. It will usually finish once tooth and claw are engaged, but sometimes it fails and even gets the worst of an encounter.

Felix Michaud, a most reliable free trapper of the old regime, once told me he had watched a lion stalking a bull elk. It was a Teton mountain cougar of the big variety. It went from cover in a headlong rush, but missed its neck stroke as the bull lunged ahead, catching him at the point of the shoulder and going under his belly. Both animals were bowled over in a mix-up of hair, hoofs, claws and horns. In a brief struggle, as they rolled over together, the cougar was thrown into the air, as if hoisted by a spring trap, by a convulsive kick from the bull's hind leg. The maddened elk gained its legs and chased its enemy off the field. An unlooked for punch in the wind had taken the sand out of pussy.—Outing.

Scotch "Drip Stone."

Years ago a Scotch great-grandpa brought to America a piece of sand rock that some persons thought was intended for a grindstone. What caused them to think so was not because it was round, but on the upper side it was hollowed out like a saucer, and the other side had a small projection like a chocolate drop in shape and size. Soon this was discovered to be what is termed a "drip stone" and when set in a shady place and the saucer side filled with water will deliver crystal pure and cold drops from the underside. The water is absolutely clean and pure as the result of this homely process. The idea was originally taken from the orientals, no doubt.—New York Press.

Sure to Please One.

George Selwyn, the famous English wit and man about town, took an extraordinary interest in deathbed scenes, criminal executions and funerals, and in "Jesse's Memoirs" the story is told of him that when the first Lord Holland was dying and learned that Selwyn had called to inquire after his health he said: "The next time Mr. Selwyn calls show him up. If I am alive, I shall be delighted to see him, and if I am dead he will be glad to see me!"

Too Queer to Pass.

"Yes, I still have the first dollar I ever made," said the gray haired passenger.

"The idea!" exclaimed the traveling acquaintance. "And how did you keep it so long?"

"It was very imperfect, being my first, and I'd have had trouble in passing it."—Philadelphia Press.

Didn't Count in the Bill.

Dr. Jalap Well, you may thank your fine constitution for pulling you through. Nothing else could have saved you.

The Convalescent—But I cannot see that you have made any reduction in your bill for my fine constitution's share in the cure.—Boston Transcript.

Congress would prepare a drama for the stage in a week or ten days, though four or five times this period was spent in revision.

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